

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7–10 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claims 2 and 6 are canceled. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

A. Iyoda

The Office Action rejects claims 1–3 and 5–7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0127157 A1 to Iyoda et al. ("Iyoda"). By this Amendment, claims 2 and 6 are cancelled, rendering the rejection moot as to those claims. As to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

One of the criteria that must be met to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness is that the applied references, either separately or combined, must teach or suggest all of the claimed features. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, independent claim 1 is amended to no longer recite "a thermoplastic polyimide resin." Therefore, claim 1, as amended, requires that the resin powder is a "thermosetting polyimide resin or a polytetrafluoroethylene resin." Although Iyoda discloses a polyamide resin and a thermoplastic resin, as recognized by the Office Action, Iyoda does not teach or suggest a thermosetting polyimide resin or a polytetrafluoroethylene resin as required by claim 1. Therefore, the subject matter of claim 1 would not have been obvious from the disclosure of Iyoda.

Iyoda would not have rendered obvious claim 1. Claims 3, 5, and 7 variously depend from claim 1 and, thus, also would not have been rendered obvious by Iyoda. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

B. Iyoda and AAPA

The Office Action rejects claims 8–10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Iyoda in view of AAPA. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As discussed above, Iyoda fails to teach or suggest a thermosetting polyimide resin or a polytetrafluoroethylene resin as required by claim 1. AAPA fails to remedy this deficiency. Therefore, Iyoda and AAPA, either separately or combined, fail to teach or suggest all of the features of claim 1.

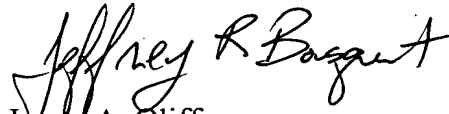
Claim 1 would not have been rendered obvious by Iyoda and AAPA. Claims 8–10 variously depend from claim 1 and, thus, also would not have been rendered obvious by Iyoda and AAPA. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3, 5, and 7–10 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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